

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 SNM-02 EB-07 AID-05

CU-02 /106 W

----- 062626

R 030631Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9875

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CINCPAC HI

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK UNN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI UNN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU UNN

AMCONSUL MANDALAY UNN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI UNN

USLO PEKING UNN

AMCONSUL UDORN UNN

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #24

1. BURMA ARMY PUSHES BACK BCP (LOU)

THE GUB HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IN HEAVY FIGHTING JUNE 22-25, BCP FORCES ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH A FOOTHOLD IN THE MAN KYAWNG-NA KA AREA WEST OF THE SALWEEN RIVER IN NORTHERN SHAN STATE WERE DRIVEN OFF.

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GUB CLAIMS 120 BCP KILLED AND ADMITS ARMY LOSSES OF 32 DEAD IN THE

BATTLE WHICH INVOLVED THE USE OF THE BURMA AIR FORCE. THIS OPERATION, REPORTEDLY STILL UNDERWAY, CONFIRMS EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT THE ARMY MIGHT LAUNCH AN ATTACK DURING THE MONSOON.

COMMENT: AS IN LAST JANUARY'S CLASHES WITH THE BCP, MAPS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL PRESS CLEARLY TIE BCP ROUTES TO THE PRC. IN ADDITION, RATHER POINTED (FOR THE GUB) EDITORIAL IN ONE PAPER URGES THE BCP'S "FOREIGN ADVISORS TO RECONSIDER THEIR ACTIONS AND BE FULLY AWARE OF THE DUTIES THEY OWE THEIR NEIGHBORS..." (RANGOON 1806).

2. NARCOTICS: FIRST HELICOPTERS ARRIVE (UNCLAS)

FOUR OF THE FIRST SIX USG SUPPLIED BELL 205A HELICOPTERS TO BE USED BY THE GUB IN NARCOTICS CONTROL ARRIVED IN RANGOON BY COMMERCIAL CARGO AIRCRAFT JUNE 29 AND JUNE 30. INSPECTION OF THE HELICOPTERS AND THEIR INITIAL SPARES BY THE AIR ATTACHE INDICATE THEY ARRIVED IN GOOD CONDITION. BELL TECHNICAL REPS ARE NOW ASSEMBLING THEM AND TRAINING OF BURMESE PILOTS SHOULD BE GIN SOON.(RANGOON 1821).

3. YUGOSLAV TRADE DELEGATION VISITS BURMA (UNCLAS)

YUGOSLAV TRADE AND ECONOMIC MISSION HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL ECONOMIC CHAMBER, MARKIC RADOVAN, IS IN RANGOON FOR SERIES OF FINANCIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH GUB OFFICIALS. DELEGATION HAS MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, U LWIN, AND OTHER MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS FROM THE VARIOUS GUB MINISTRIES, AGENCIES AND CORPORATIONS CONCERNED WITH TRADE AND FINANCE.

COMMENT: YUGOSLAVIA HAS MADE MEDIUM TERM COMMODITY LOANS TO BURMA IN PAST AND IT IS LIKELY THAT SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING DISCUSSED WP THIS DELEGATION. HOWEVER, MAIN PURPOSE OF VISIT SEEMS TO BE PROTOCOL AND POLITICAL -- REPAYING EARLIER GUB VISITS TO YUGOSLAVIA AND EXHIBITING A SHOW OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. AS AN MFA OFFICIAL REMARKED,"THERE IS LITTLE TO DISCUSS ABOUT TRADE. THEY ASK WHAT WE CAN BUY AND WE SAY NOTHING AS WE HAVE NO MONEY. THEY ASK WHAT THEY CAN BUY FROM US AND WE SAY NOTHING AS WE HAVE NO GOODS TO EXPORT."

4. GUB PARLIAMENT DELEGATION RETURNS FROM USSR (LOU)

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A SEVEN-MEMBER PHITHU HLUTTAW (PARLIAMENT) DELEGATION HEADED BY COL. KHIN MAUNG LAY RETURNED FROM AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION ON JUNE 28. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT ANY SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WERE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS TRIP WHICH WAS MAINLY A GOODWILL AND INFORMATION TOUR FOLLOWING THE EARLIER VISIT OF GUB DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER U LWIN (WEEKA 23, ITEM 3). IT MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED AS ANOTHER SIGNAL TO THE PRC OF CLOSER GUB-USSR RELATIONS. AT LEAST THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS PRINTED STORY OF DELEGATION'S

RETURN ON FRONT PAGES NEXT TO ARTICLE ON CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRC-SUPPORTED CPB INSURGENTS, NEWS WHICH IS RARELY PUBLISHED IN BURMA.

5. MORE PERSONNEL FIRED FROM GUB CORPORATION (UNCLAS)

GUB CONTINUED ITS ROUND OF PERSONNEL SHAKEUPS (WEEKA 22, ITEM 12) BY SUSPENDING EIGHT EMPLOYEES AND FORCING THREE ADDITIONAL SENIOR OFFICERS TO TAKE EARLY RETIREMENT FROM THE PETROLEUM AND PETRO-CHEMICAL PRODUCTS AND NATURAL GAS MARKETING CORPORATION, THE FORMER MARKETING DIVISION OF MYANMA OIL CORPORATION. CHARGES AGAINST THE EMPLOYEES INCLUDED ILLEGAL DISTRIBUTION OF PETROLEUM, BLACKMARKET DEALINGS AND FALSIFICATION OF ACCOUNTS. THE CONTINUING PURGES HAVE UNDERSTANDABLY CREATED CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF INSECURITY AND TENSION AMONG OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VARIOUS GUB CORPORATIONS AND AGENCIES AS MANY OF THEM ARE PROBABLY GUILTY IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER OF CORRUPT PRACTICES, BLACKMARKET DEALINGS OR PETTY LARCENY.

6. PETROLEUM AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENTS (LOU)

BOTH ESSO AND CITIES SERVICE HAVE RESUMED OFFSHORE DRILLING AFTER SHUTDOWNS DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. ESSO IS BELOW 9,000 FEET IN ITS SECOND HOLE WHICH IS EXPECTED TO GO DOWN TO 14,000 FEET. CITIES SERVICE HAS REACHED A DEPTH OF ABOUT 7,000 IN ITS PRESENT HOLE AND PLANS TO DRILL AN ADDITIONAL 4,000 FEET BEFORE MOVING TO ANOTHER SITE. NEITHER COMPANY REPORTS ANY ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF PETROLEUM DEPOSITS. IN THE MINERAL FIELD, A WORLD BANK EXPERT IN RANGOON TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A TIN DEPOSIT IN THE TENASSERIM AREA. THE RECENT UN TIN AND TUNGSTEN PROJECT FOUND THE DEPOSIT WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS LYING IN A TIDAL BASIN AREA TO BE COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE. IN ANOTHER AREA, THE GUB MINERAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCED PLANS TO ESTABLISH A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PILOT PLANT TO EXPLOIT COPPER DEPOSITS NEAR MONYWA. THE PLANT IS TO BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR.

UNQUOTE. OSBORN

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

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SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 SNM-02 EB-07 AID-05

CU-02 /106 W

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R 030631Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

7. FREE NEWSPAPERS (UNCLAS)

BURMA'S EGALITARIAN SOCIALIST REGIME HAS FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN PROVIDING AT LEAST ONE POSITIVE BENEFIT TO THE READING PUBLIC -- FREE NEWSPAPERS. THIS BENEFIT WAS ENTIRELY UNPLANNED, BUT IN BURMA'S COMMODITY HUNGRY MARKET WHERE A SCRAP OF ANYTHING COMMANDS A HEALTHY PRICE, THE PRICE FOR WASTE PAPER HAS REACHED THE LEVEL WHERE NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIBERS CAN SELL THEIR OLD PERIODICALS FOR MORE THAN THE COST OF THEIR DAILY SUBSCRIPTION.

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8. NEW BURMESE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL (LOU)

PRESS REPORTS U LA WOM HAS BEEN NAMED BURMA'S NEW ENVOY TO ISRAEL. A LEADER OF THE KACHIN ETHNIC MINORITY, HE IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS

A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE KACHIN STATE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL.

COMMENT: EARLIER REPORTS INDICATED THAT BRIG. SAW PRU, CHIEF OF THE BURMA AIR FORCE, HAD BEEN OFFERED THIS POST BUT WAS RESISTING THE ASSIGNMENT.

9. AMBASSADOR PRESENTS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BOOKS (UNCLAS)

MORE THAN 1,500 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REFERENCE BOOKS, RECENTLY ON EXHIBIT IN RANGOON AND MANDALAY, WERE PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR OSBORN TO U MYINT AUNG, DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION. THE PROFESSIONAL-LEVEL BOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND RESEARCH. WHEN THE BOOKS WERE DISPLAYED AT THE DOME OF THE INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE I IN RANGOON AND MANDALAY IN MARCH AND APRIL OF THIS YEAR, MORE THAN 100,000 PERSONS VISITED THE EXHIBITS INCLUDING PRESIDENT U NE WIN AND MANY HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS.

10. US BASKETBALL PROS COACH BURMESE (UNCLAS)

FORMER BOSTON CELTICS BASKETBALL COACH "RED" AUERBACH AND STAR FORWARD DON NELSON LEFT BURMA ON JUNE 29 AFTER A WEEK OF BASKETBALL CLINICS FOR MEN AND WOMEN PLAYERS AND COACHES FROM THE BURMA SELECTION AND RANGOON DIVISION SELECTION. WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE GAME, "RED" AUERBACH AND NELSON RAN BOTH PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL DRILLS FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN FOR SIX DAYS AT THE NO. 4 STATE HIGH SCHOOL. AUERBACH, WHO WAS IN BURMA ON A SIMILAR TOUR IN 1970, WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BY PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS OF THE BASKETBALL FEDERATION AND THE SPORTS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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